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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re of Applicant)
Tadahiro Ohmi et al.) Art Group: 7595
Serial No.: 09/581,878)
Filing Date: June 19, 2000)
Title: SEMICONDUCTOR) Examiner: Luz L. Alejandro
MANUFACTURING APPARATUS) Mulero
)
)

RESPONSE

Mail Stop AF
HON. COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated April 22, 2003, having a due date of July 22, 2003, Applicant hereby submits the following Amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and rejected in this application.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended hereby. Applicants submit that none of the changes set forth herewith constitute new matter or raise new issues.

5 Support in the specification for the amendments to claims 1 and 2 can be found, e.g., in Fig. 2 (i.e., vacuum vessel bottom plate 102 and wafer stage 105) and at page 10, line 26, through page 11, line 2. Applicant further submits that no new issues are raised as the terminology "fixedly provided" is within the 10 scope and meaning of "substantially constant vertical position"

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